

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 134205

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, VN, LA, US

SUBJECT: EA/VLC STATUS REPORT NO. 8

REGIONAL: MIA ACTIVITIES (CONF)

ON MAY 8 THE HOUSE PASSED 369 TO ZERO H. CON. RES. 583
(GILMAN RESOLUTION) CALLING ON SECSTATE TO REQUEST THE UN
SEC GEN "TO WORK THROUGH EXISTING UN AGENCIES FOR THE PURPOSE
OF SECURING THE FULLEST POSSIBLE ACCOUNTING OF AMERICANS
LISTED AS MISSING IN SEA." ON MAY 17 BOB OAKLEY WAS QUES-
TIONED BY REP. GILMAN DURING WOLFF SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING ON
INDOCHINA, AND FOLLOWING DAY FRED BROWN AND FRANK SIEVERTS
MET WITH GILMAN FOR FURTHER DISCUSSIONS. GILMAN REMAINS
DISSATISFIED WITH ADMINISTRATION'S MIA EFFORTS AND PLANS TO
INVITE NSC, STATE AND DOD REPS JUNE 6 "TO DISCUSS WHERE WE
GO NEXT ON RESOLUTION OF MIA ISSUE." GILMAN WILL TAKE PART
IN WOLFF SUBCOMMITTEE TRIP TO ASIA LATE JUNE. DURING THAI-
LAND VISIT, HE INTENDS TO VISIT REFUGEE CAMPS AND EMPHASIZE
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USE OF REFUGEES AS SOURCES FOR MIA INFORMATION. ON JULY 1
HE AND WOLFF WILL CONDUCT SPECIAL HEARING AT HONOLULU FOR RE-
TIRED USAF OFFICER CLAIMING TO HAVE INFORMATION ON AMERICANS
STILL HELD IN LAOS. ALSO IN NEAR FUTURE (JUNE-JULY) DOD (AS
RESULT OF FOI REQUEST) PLANS TO RELEASE LARGE NUMBER OF "UN-
CORRELATED" REPORTS OF MIA SIGHTINGS RECEIVED OVER YEARS,
INCLUDING REPORTS RECEIVED SINCE 1975. THIS RELEASE

MAY GENERATE FURTHER PUBLIC AND CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST
IN MIA ISSUE.

2. REGIONAL: CAMBODIA-SINGAPORE TRADE--THE ODD COUPLE
(CONF)

FOLLOWING AN OFFICIAL SINGAPOREAN VISIT TO DEMOCRATIC
KAMPUCHEA (DK) THE TWO COUNTRIES HAVE CONCLUDED A BILATERAL
TRADE ARRANGEMENT. SINGAPORE WILL BUY FROM CAMBODIA ITEMS
INCLUDING TIMBER, FISH, COFFEE AND FRUITS. CAMBODIA IN
TURN WILL BUY INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY, CHEMICALS AND
PETROLEUM PRODUCTS USING THE PROCEEDS FROM ITS EXPORTS TO
SINGAPORE. COMMENT: IT IS INTERESTING THAT SINGAPORE
HAS CHOSEN TO DEAL WITH CAMBODIA AND VIETNAM AT THE SAME
LEVEL OF RELATIONSHIP (TRADE DELEGATIONS) RATHER THAN GO
AHEAD WITH FULL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE SRV, AS
HAVE OTHER ASEAN STATES.

3. VIETNAM: LE VAN MEETING WITH SENATOR KENNEDY (LOU)

DR. JOHN LE VAN, UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO, WHO LAST SEPTEMBER
WAS FIRST VIETNAMESE-AMERICAN TO RECEIVE VISA TO VISIT
FAMILY IN VIETNAM SINCE 1975, LUNCHEDED WITH SENATOR KENNEDY
MAY 19. FRED BROWN AND MIKE OWENS OF VLC WERE ALSO
PRESENT. LE VAN HAD REQUESTED MEETING WITH KENNEDY TO
THANK HIM FOR HIS EFFORTS TO OBTAIN HANOI APPROVAL FOR
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VISIT TO VIETNAM AND TO INFORM KENNEDY OF HIS EFFORTS
TO STIMULATE PRIVATE VIETNAMESE-US EXCHANGES IN SCIENTIFIC
AND HEALTH FIELDS. KENNEDY ASKED NUMBER OF QUESTIONS
REGARDING LE VAN'S OBSERVATIONS IN VIETNAM. SUBJECTS OF
PARTICULAR INTEREST WHERE CHINESE AND RUSSIAN INFLUENCE,
ECONOMIC SITUATION AND EFFECTS OF WAR. KENNEDY ALSO
ASKED ABOUT HEALTH CONDITIONS. LE VAN SAID PHYSICAL
EVIDENCE OF PRC/SOVIET INFLUENCE WAS MINIMAL, ECONOMIC
SITUATION TENUOUS AND OBVIOUS WAR DAMAGE LARGELY
REPAIRED. AS FOR HEALTH, COUNTRY SUFFERED BADLY FOR LACK
OF MEDICAL EQUIPMENT AND MEDICINES. LE VAN DESCRIBED HIS
EFFORTS TO ACQUIRE AND DONATE CANCER TREATMENT EQUIPMENT
AND KIDNEY MACHINES. LE VAN NOTED HE WAS IN CONTACT WITH
KENNEDY'S STAFF REGARDING KIDNEY MACHINES. LE VAN ALSO
TOLD KENNEDY OF HIS INVITATIONS TO LEADING VIETNAMESE
CANCER SPECIALIST TONG THAT TUNG AND PHYSICIST NGUYEN VAN
HIEN TO VISIT THE U.S. IN OCTOBER 78 AND APRIL 79. HE
EXPLAINED THAT INVITATIONS (AS WELL AS DONATIONS OF
MEDICAL EQUIPMENT) WERE COORDINATED THROUGH AMERICAN-
VIETNAMESE COMMITTEE FOR SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION WHICH HE
AND OTHER ACADEMICS WERE FOUNDING. AT CONCLUSION OF
LUNCH, KENNEDY TOLD LE VAN THAT HE WAS IN FAVOR OF

PRIVATE HUMANITARIAN AID TO VIETNAM, WOULD SUPPORT LE VAN'S EFFORTS IN ANY APPROPRIATE WAY AND ASKED TO BE KEPT INFORMED.

4. LAOS: CANDIDATES FOR TECHNICAL TRAINING IN THE U.S.?
(CONF)

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE INFORMS US THAT THE UNDP/FAO REPRESENTATIVE IN VIENTIANE (IDENTIFIED AS "R SHULKA") HAS ASKED AGRICULTURE'S INFORMAL OPINION ON WHETHER OR NOT TWO LAO MICROBIOLOGISTS WOULD BE WELCOME TO ATTEND A NINE MONTH USDA-SPONSORED TRAINING PROGRAM AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA (AMES) BEGINNING NEXT SEPTEMBER. PROGRAM WOULD BE IN-SERVICE RESEARCH TRAINING AT UNDP
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EXPENSE FOR UNSTATED ONWARD ASSIGNMENT IN LAO GOVERNMENT. WE TOLD AGRICULTURE THAT IN PRINCIPLE THE USG WOULD HAVE NO PROBLEM WITH LAO ATTENDANCE UNDER UNDP AUSPICES AND THAT INDEED UNDP COULD BE TOLD INFORMALLY THAT A LAO PRESENCE WOULD BE WELCOMED. COMMENT: THIS IS FIRST CASE OF THIS SORT WE KNOW OF SINCE 1975. WE HAVE NO PROOF THAT THE LPDR REALLY UNDERSTANDS UNDP'S PROPOSAL OR EVEN IF THERE HAS BEEN PRIOR CONSULTATION. IT WILL BE INTERESTING TO SEE IF OUR INFORMAL EXPRESSION OF WILLINGNESS TO HAVE LAO SPECIALISTS COME HERE WILL YIELD ANY RESULT.

5. REGIONAL: SSOD DELEGATIONS (LOU)

ALL THREE VLC COUNTRIES ARE REPRESENTED AT THE SPECIAL SESSION OF DISARMAMENT OPENING MAY 23. THE FIVE-MAN VIETNAMESE DELEGATION IS LED BY VICE FOREIGN MINISTER VO DONG GIANG AND MINISTER FOR CULTURE NGUYEN VAN HIEU. INTERESTINGLY, DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA (DK) IS ALSO SENDING A FIVE MEMBER DELEGATION HEADED BY FOREIGN MINISTER IENG SARY. THE LAO WILL BE REPRESENTED BY THEIR PERMANENT UN DELEGATION. AS YET WE HAVE NO INDICATION THAT REPRESENTATIVES FROM ANY VLC DELEGATION WILL ASK FOR BILATERAL MEETINGS WITH DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS. OBVIOUS QUESTIONS: WILL THE SSOD PROVIDE A FORUM FOR PROPAGANDA EXCHANGES BY THE SRV AND DK? WILL THE PRC-SRV UNPLEASANTNESS SURFACE?
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